

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 54**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley**

March 23, 2009

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 54—Relative to education finance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 54, as introduced, Brownley. Education finance.

This measure would state the intent of the Legislature that the State of California generate sufficient funds for, and allocate sufficient funds to, education, so as to bring per pupil spending up to or beyond the national average, and to a level that accounts for the actual cost of educating California's diverse pupil population.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, School districts cannot be expected to meet  
2 performance standards unless they have sufficient funds to support  
3 academic success for all pupils; and  
4 WHEREAS, California's current education funding system does  
5 not address cost differences across schools, school districts, or  
6 pupils; and  
7 WHEREAS, California's current system of education finance  
8 appreciably underfunds schools and school districts, especially  
9 those with the largest number of pupils with the highest needs;  
10 and  
11 WHEREAS, Schools and school districts with relatively high  
12 concentrations of disadvantaged pupils and those that operate in  
13 a high cost environment do not receive sufficient funding to allow

1 pupils to reach the 21st century performance expectations that the  
2 state places on them or to allow those schools and school districts  
3 to meet the state's current goal on the Academic Performance  
4 Index or the federal government's goals with respect to Adequate  
5 Yearly Progress; and

6 WHEREAS, California schools and school districts receive  
7 fewer revenues, and subsequently spend significantly less, than  
8 do schools and school districts in most other states; and

9 WHEREAS, California has one of the highest pupil-to-staff  
10 ratios in the country; and

11 WHEREAS, A comprehensive research study requested by the  
12 Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, the President Pro Tempore  
13 of the Senate, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction found  
14 that in 2007 an increase of at least 40 percent in education funding,  
15 targeted mostly to low-income schools, would be needed to meet  
16 the current expectations placed on California schools; and

17 WHEREAS, Proposition 13, which unfairly restricts corporate  
18 property tax increases, has limited the ability to raise the additional  
19 revenues necessary to provide the high quality education that  
20 Californians expect and to support academic success for all of the  
21 state's pupils; and

22 WHEREAS, The cost of providing an education in California,  
23 like the overall cost of living, is among the highest in the country;  
24 now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
26 *thereof concurring*, That it is the intent of the Legislature that the  
27 State of California generate sufficient funds for, and allocate  
28 sufficient funds to, education, so as to bring per pupil spending up  
29 to or beyond the national average and to a level that accounts for  
30 the actual cost of educating California's diverse pupil population  
31 so that all pupils are prepared at the end of their elementary and  
32 secondary education experiences for college, careers, and  
33 successful participation in our democratic institutions, no matter  
34 where they live or what their economic, racial, or ethnic  
35 background is; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
37 of this resolution to the Governor, to the Superintendent of Public  
38 Instruction, to the Chairs of the Assembly Committees on Budget  
39 and on Education, the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Budget

- 1 and Fiscal Review and on Education, to the Secretary for
- 2 Education, and to the President of the State Board of Education.

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